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PRESS RELEASE

USAID PEP opens office of technical education for the 21st century

The American people, through the USAID Primary Education Project (PEP), are investing in the modernization of curricula for technology education to increase the interest of students in technical studies and professions. As part of this investment, PEP is opening "21st Century Technology Labs" by renovating and equipping technology classrooms.

St. Goce Delcev Primary School in Gostivar is one of nine schools that are receiving such assistance. Rufe Osmani, the Mayor of Gostivar, joined representatives from USAID and PEP as well as the director, teachers and students of Goce Delcev to celebrate the renovation and modernization of its technology laboratory.

"The skills and knowledge that students gain in school do not match labor market needs," said Lela Jakovlevska, USAID Senior Education Project Specialist. "The aptitudes most important in modern economies must be developed at primary school age. We hope that these "21st Century Technology Labs" will provide students with the skills and knowledge needed for Macedonia's future."

The USAID Primary Education Project (PEP), implemented by the Academy for Educational Development (AED), works with all public primary schools in Macedonia to improve the quality of instruction and increase student employment skills. The overall goal of the USAID Education Program is to strengthen education in Macedonia and to support decentralization efforts as Macedonia seeks entrance to the European Union.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.